

## poster ABSTRACT

Poster No. 13

### TITLE

## OKLAHOMA'S EXPERIENCE IN BUILDING AN ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH TRACKING NETWORK

### TRACK

#### Collaboration/Diversity/Coordination

### OBJECTIVES

- (1) Demonstrate the collaboration and coordination that occurred between the OSDH and DEQ to develop sharing of environmental and health outcomes data.
- (2) Highlight additional state agencies that expanded the diversity of environmental data available to the Oklahoma Environmental Public Health Tracking project (OK-EPHT).

### SUMMARY

The three years the OK-EPHT project spent demonstrating and evaluating methods for linking health and environmental data have been a boon for both agencies responsible for the EPHT project in Oklahoma. OK-EPHT has built a network in which health professionals from OSDH and environmental professionals from DEQ could communicate and collaborate on a number of issues. Health outcome data and environmental hazard data were not initially gathered with interoperability in mind. Through coordination, collaboration, and interoperability, the OK-EPHT project created an environment in which cooperation between the two agencies flourishes. Prior to this, OSDH and DEQ handled many environmental public health issues separately and, usually, ineffectively. The linking of health and environmental data has meant better communication between agencies, more structured protocol for handling public concerns, and more detailed responses to those concerns. For example, when public complaints concerning possible cancer or birth defects clusters arise, both agencies work together to determine the nature of the complaint and present a unified response.

New data sharing agreements between the OK-EPHT, programs/health data providers and additional environmental agencies, such as the Oklahoma Corporation Commission and the Department of Agriculture, evolved through collaborative efforts in mapping and data analysis activities. Roles and responsibilities are shared within the OK-EPHT team and the agency/program data providers to ensure successful access to information, which will benefit the communities and citizens of Oklahoma.

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